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# NOTES ON SOME SPECIES OF ERICA, WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF THREE NEW SPECIES AND TWO NEW VARIETIES

H. A. Baker

(With Plates XXIII — XXV)

**1. E. pulchella** Houtt.

This species is described in Flora Capensis as follows: "sepals oblong, lanceolate or linear-lanceolate, obtuse, keeled, very concave, scarious on the margin, ciliate, about 2 mm. long; corolla urceolate-campanulate, mouth slightly contracted, sub-tetragonous, glabrous, rosy or dark red, 3—4 mm. long, with the limb slightly spreading $\frac{1}{4}$—$\frac{1}{3}$ the length of the tube; anthers", etc. . . . Mr. E. G. H. Oliver recently collected a few specimens on a small saddle N.E. of Pringle Bay and to the East of the main road above the river valley that had campanulate flowers of a very dark red. The specimens were so unlike the typical form of *E. pulchella* in appearance that the author made a special visit to the site in 1962 to make a study on the spot.

In this small area only a 100 yards long and 20 or so wide, there is a colony of *E. pulchella* with a great diversity of corolla shapes and colours but, although the area is bounded on all sides by Ericaceous soil supporting a large variety of species, the diverse forms were, apparently, quite local. In considering corolla shapes it is interesting to speculate what is meant by "urceolate-campanulate" above. It would appear to be a contradiction of terms since urceolate, meaning urn-shaped is closing at the mouth, whereas campanulate, or bell-shaped is the reverse. Andrews in Col. Heath's No. 49 describes the flowers as "nearly globular" and has depicted them globose-urceolate. But his shapes are unreliable since they are from flowers grown in hothouse conditions in the U.K. Loddigers in Bot. Cat. t 49 figures the corolla somewhat variable in shape but mostly urceolate.

The most common and well known form from Stellenbosch to Caledon is that depicted in Fig. 1 (*a*), (*Baker* 1896) and collected in the area under consideration for comparison. The measurements of the various forms were actually made on the site and are, therefore, reasonably accurate. They show corollae ranging in shape from narrow-cyathiform to campanulate (Fig. 1 (*a*) to (*c*) ). The forms in (*b*) and (*c*) stood out clearly from everything else owing to their very dark red colour; (*a*) was the normal rosy colour. It will be noted that, in addition to the corolla shapes, the sepals vary from less than half the length of the corolla as in (*a*) to three-quarters thereof, reaching to the base of

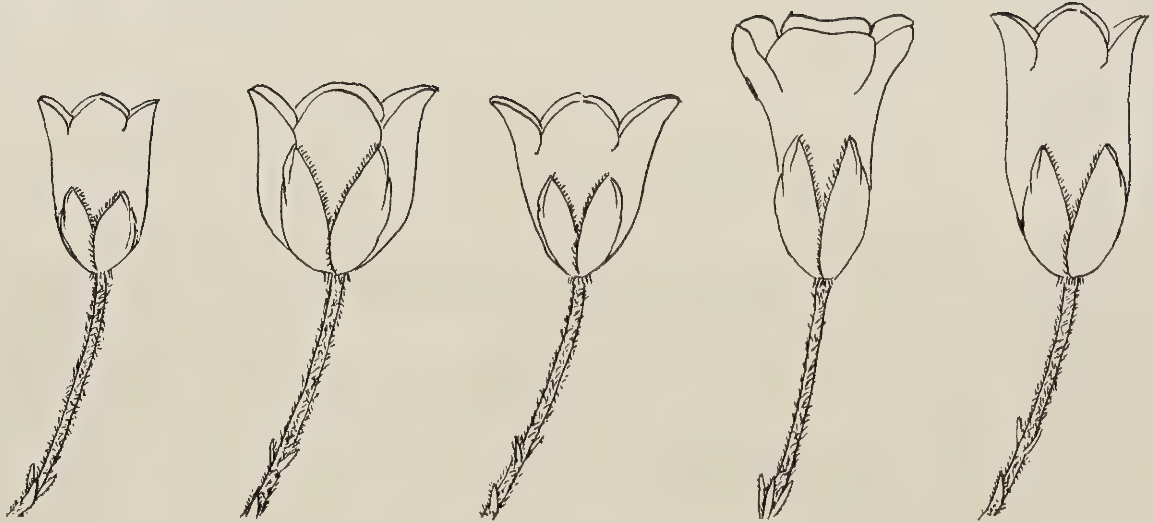

Fig. 1

a (1896)

b (1892 1888)

c (1894)

d E.longiaristata Benth.

e (850) ex. Bolus Herbarium

*Erica pulchella* Houtt. All X 3½. *Del.* H. A. Baker

(Numbers in brackets refer to authors' specimens) the lobes in some instances. This feature was variable even on the same plant. The lobes also vary considerably.

It is difficult to understand the reason for this great variety on such a small spot. There were no significant differences in other characters. In association were *E. corifolia* L., *E. pectinata* Kl. and *E. gysbertii* G. & B.

There is in the Bolus Herbarium a specimen in "incertae" collected by Stokoe in Feb. 1947 at "Rooi Els" which is very likely from the same locality as it resembles the forms under consideration.

It is interesting to compare *E. pulchella var. major* Salter, Fig. 1 (*e*), which is endemic to the area above Simonstown with *E. longiaristata* Benth., Fig. 1 (*d*), which was copied from a very beautiful pencil sketch on the herbarium sheet presumably from fresh material. The latter is widely distributed in the Bredasdorp Div. and the corolla is described as constantly wide-mouthed. It would appear, however, to be no more than a variety of *E. pulchella.*

2. E. **brachialis** Salisb.

For the record, a specimen has been found by the author at Hangklip with a "trunk" 30 mm. in diameter. It was 1·2—1·5 m. high and obviously of great age. There were many more of almost equal size.

3. E. **curviflora** L.

In the key to Evanthe in Flora Capensis this species comes in a section headed "Flowers solitary". This is not correct since it has been found with flowers 2-nate and 3-nate in several localities including the Cape Peninsula nature reserve, Bredasdorp and Ceres Divisions, in the latter with yellow flowers, (*Baker* 1476/7) Cape Peninsula, (*Oliver* 567) Ceres, Tafelberg 3,000 ft., flowers yellow, (*Baker* 1780) Bredasdorp nr. Pearly Beach. In each of the above the flowers are 1-, 2- or 3-nate on the same plant.

4. E. **fucata** Kl.

A colony has been noted on the lower slopes above Stanford in which the sepals are gamosepalous to a considerable degree (*Baker* 1815).

5. E. **cygnea** Salter

Collections in the valley above Rooi Els not very far from the type locality show considerable variation in shape, particularly of the corolla and anthers from the type (*Baker* 1667).

6. E. **macowani** Cufino

This has been found to be very variable in colour and not entirely reliable in the number of cells in the ovary; e.g. an all-yellow one from the Harold Porter reserve (*Baker* 1381), a pink/white form on Pringle Peak slopes (*Baker* 1408), very similar in appearance to *E. perspicua* growing with it; on dissection no hybrid characters were observed. Another form from a steep, slimy, clay bank above Betty's Bay had a pink/yellow corolla and a 4-celled ovary (*Baker* 1405). The bracts were also different, being very small and ovate. It appeared to be extremely local and is possibly a geographical mutation.

**7. E. inops** Bolus and **E. hispidula** L.

The former grows in profusion on the S.E. slopes of Constantia Berg about 700 m. and the latter is common on the northern slopes. In the small valley at 700 m. on that side the author collected forms of *E. hispidula* with 2 bracts approximate and 1 remote and some flowers with 1 bract (*Baker* 991 and 992), with 1 or 2 bracts (*Baker* 993), with 1 large, sepal-like bract adpressed to the calyx as in *E. inops* (*Baker* 996), 1 large bract approximate or remote and 1 cluster with no bracts (*Baker* 994), with 1 large sepal-like bract intermediate. (*Baker* 997), the peduncle rather long and the flowers pink and white, unlike the others mentioned, which were all white. These variable forms suggest hybridisation between these two very similar, wind-pollinated species.

**Erica ionii** H. A. Baker sp. nov. (*Ericaceae—Ericoideae*) Pyronium.

Frutex erectus ad 30 cm. altus, ramis multis subvirgatis e rhizomate vel basi stipitis ortis, junioribus pubigeris. *Folia* 3-nata, ovalia, circa 2 mm. longa,

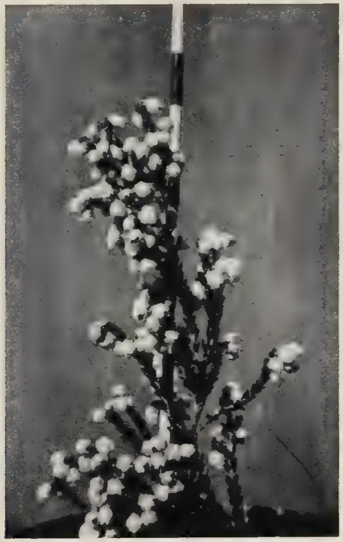

PLATE XXIII
*Erica ionii* H. A. Baker
The scale in the picture is divided into half inches.

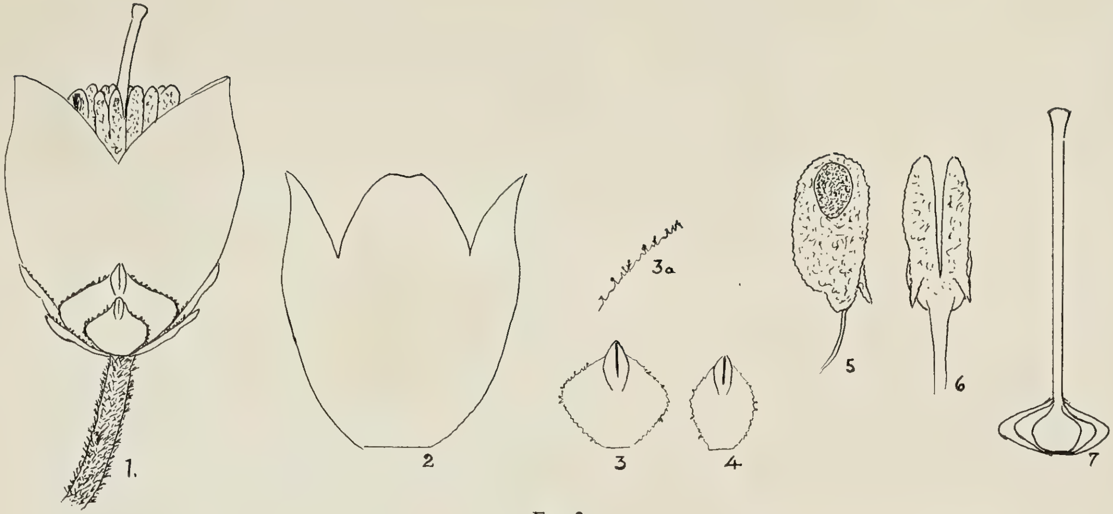

FIG. 2

*Erica ionii* H. A. Baker *Baker* 2330 1. Flower; 2. corolla; 3. sepal, 11 times 12; 3a. edge of sepal much enlarged; 4. bract × 6; 5. anther, side; 6. anther, back, both × 12; 7. gynoecium, × 6. *Del.* H. A. Baker.

ternata erecta vel leviter divaricata, primo imbricata sed demum internodis aequalia, superne concava nervo crasso, infra sulcata, glabra, marginibus serrulatis: petioli pubigeri. *Inflorescentiae* umbellatae 3—8-florae. *Pedicelli* 2 mm. longi, breviter hispidi. *Bracteae* 3, ovatae vel lato-ovatae, apice carinatae, scariosae, minute serrulato-ciliatae, 1·2 mm. longae, ad sepala arcte imbricatae. *Sepala* bracteis similia sed lato ovata ad orbicularia concava, fere 1·3 mm. longa. Pili pedicellorum et dentium marginalium bractearium et sepalorum interdum ramosi et rariori apice glandula minuta nigra. *Corolla* urceolata vix in faucibus constricta, sed variabilis secundum aetas floris, glabra, sicca, superne pallide rubicunda, infra fere alba, 3·5 mm. longa et 3 mm. lata: lobi erecti obtusi fere 0·75 mm. longi. *Antherae* laterales, tempestive manifestae, oblongae, basi lobo profundo, bipartitae, scabridae appendiculatae fere 1 mm. longae, poro tertia pars longitudinis lobi. *Filamenta* potius lata: aristae brevissimae, rugosae, liberae. *Ovarium* glabrum; stylo exserto, stigma capitellata.

An upright shrub to 30 cm. with many subvirgate branches arising from the rootstock or the base of the stem, the younger pubigerous. *Leaves* 3-nate, oval, about 2 mm. long, upright to spreading, imbricate at first, later about equalling the internodes, the upper face concave with a thick nerve, the lower sulcate, glabrous, the margins minutely serrulate, the petioles pubigerous. *Inflorescences* umbellate with clusters of 3—8 flowers. Peduncles 2 mm. long, shortly hispid. *Bracts* 3, ovate to broad-ovate, keel-tipped, scarious, coloured, minutely serrulate-ciliate, closely imbricating the sepals, about 1·2 mm. long. *Sepals* like the bracts but broad-ovate to orbicular, concave, about 1·3 mm. long. The hairs on the peduncles and the teeth on the margins of the bracts and sepals are sometimes branched and, in some cases have a minute black gland at the tip. *Corolla* urceolate, scarcely narrowed at the throat, the shape variable with the age of the flower; glabrous, dry, pale pink above to nearly white below, 3·5 mm. long, about 3 mm. wide; lobes upright, obtuse, about 0·75 mm. long. *Anthers* manifest at maturity, lateral, oblong, with a deep lobe at the base, deeply bipartite, scabrid, appendiculate, about 1 mm. long: pore one-third the length of the cell. *Filaments* rather broad. Awns very short, free, rough. *Ovary* glabrous; style exserted, stigma capitellate.

UNIONDALE DIVISION. On sandy slopes on Potjieskloof Pass beside the National Road from George to Uniondale at about 900 m. (3,000 ft.) *Williams* 245, *Baker* 2330, *holotype* in the Bolus Herbarium, and on the slopes of Hoopsberg about 11 miles west of Uniondale at 1200 m. (4,000 ft.) *Williams* 249. July 1962 and 1963. This plant was first collected by Mr. Ion Williams after whom it is named. He has, while collecting Leucadendron on which he is working, collected many Ericae for the author and he has a very good eye for un-named species.

*E. ionii* has been placed in the section *Pyronium* as it could easily be fitted into the key near *E. deliciosa*, but it differs from that species in most respects. In fact it cannot be said to be nearly related to any other species. It might be thought better placed in the sub-genus Chlamydanthe on account of its scarious bracts and sepals and their way of imbricating the corolla, but it will not fit into any section there on account of its umbellate inflorescence and comparatively small sepals.

The minute, black glands on some of the hairs and ciliations are interesting as their purpose is not clear. They are not sticky glands. Similar glands have been noticed on another species collected by Mr. Williams in this general area. This may turn out to be an un-named one too, but the material so far collected is too immature for a full study to be made. It is clear, however that it is of the same character, although it has muticous and differently shaped anthers and much larger sepals. It is hoped to collect mature specimens next year.

**Erica pudens** H. A. Baker sp. nov. (*Ericaceae—Ericoideae*) Pseuderemia.
Fruticulus parvus fere ad 15 cm. altus. *Rami* rigide hirsuti e rhizomate vel basi stipitis orti, primo erecti, tandem elongati et subprocumbentes fere 3 cm. super terram. *Folia* 4-nata lanceolata, fere 4 mm. longa leviter divaricata, primo imbricata deinde fere internodis aequantia, sulcata ad subplana, rigide hirsuta.

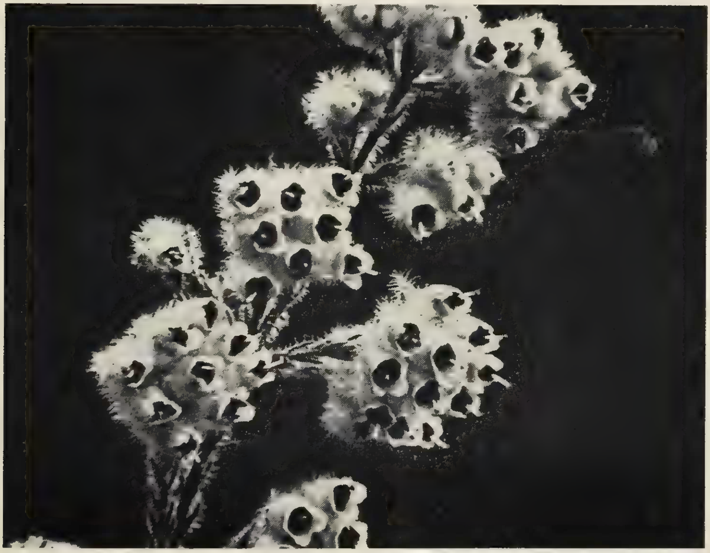

PLATE XXIV

*Erica ionii* H. A. Baker.
Approx. × 2

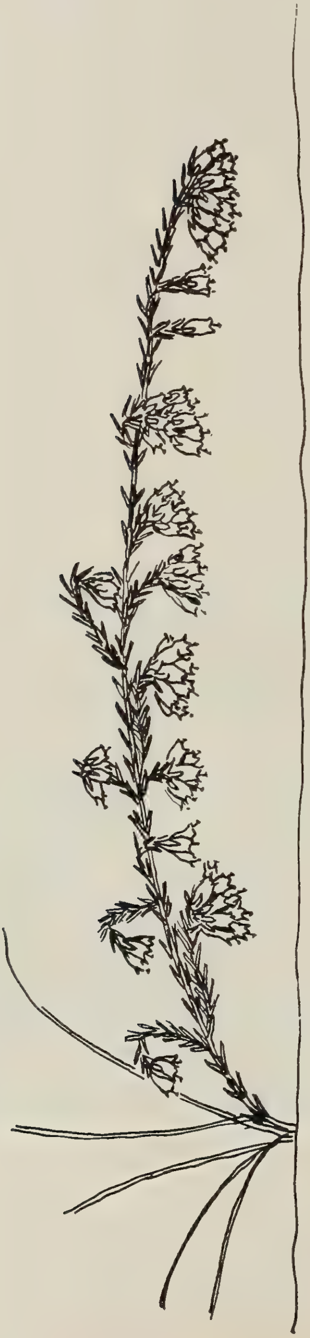

Fig. 3.

*Erica pudens*. Sprig, natural size, showing habit of older branches

*Inflorescentiae* cernuae capitatae, floribus ad duodecim directo declivibus. *Pedunculi* fere 3·5 mm. longi, idem bracteae et sepala rigide hirsuti crinibus fere 2 mm. longis. *Bracteae* 3, pilosae crinibus glandulosis, 2 approximatae et sepalis similes, tertia basalis lanceolata late sulcata, basin versus alba sed apicem versus viridis. *Sepala* pilosa crinibus glandulosis, anguste oblonga, e basi lata attenuata, 3 mm. longa, medio 0·5 mm. lata. *Corolla* tubulari-lanceolata, glabra, sicca, alba 4·5—5·0 mm. longa, lobis obtusis non extensis 1 mm. longis. *Antherae* inclusae vel demum tantum manifestae subdorsifixae, basi obtusae et lobatae alte bipartae scabrides appendiculatae, 1·3 mm. longae, poro fere tres partes longitudinis lobi: filamenta sat lata. *Cristae* latae laceratae 1 mm. longae, flavae. *Ovarium* glabrum; stylo exserto, stigmate capitata.

A dwarf shrub up to 15 cm. or so. Branches hirsute with stiff hairs, arising from the rootstock or base of the stem, at first upright then lengthening and becoming subprocumbent about 3 cm. from the ground with the flower heads

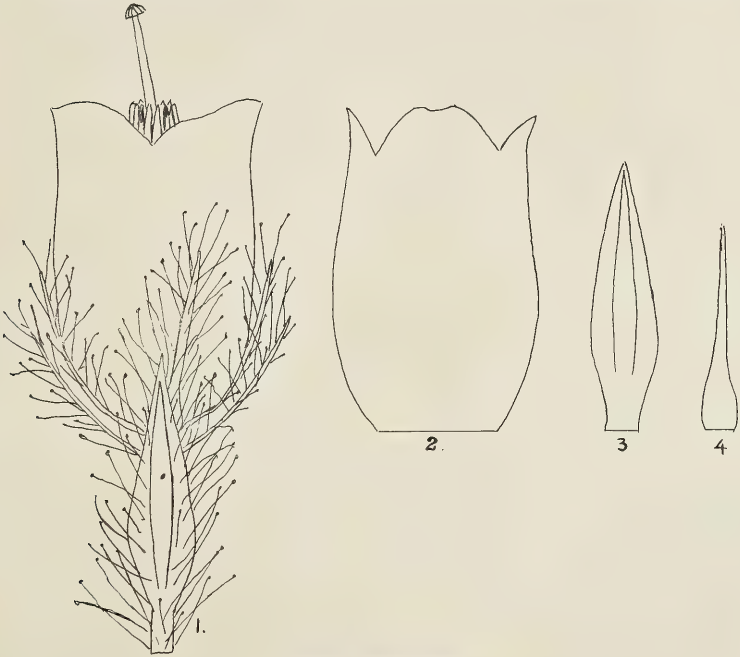

FIG. 4. *Erica pudens*

(1) Flower, (2) Corolla, (3) Lower bract, omitting hairs, (4) Upper bracts and sepals omitting hairs. All × 5. *Del.* H. A. Baker.

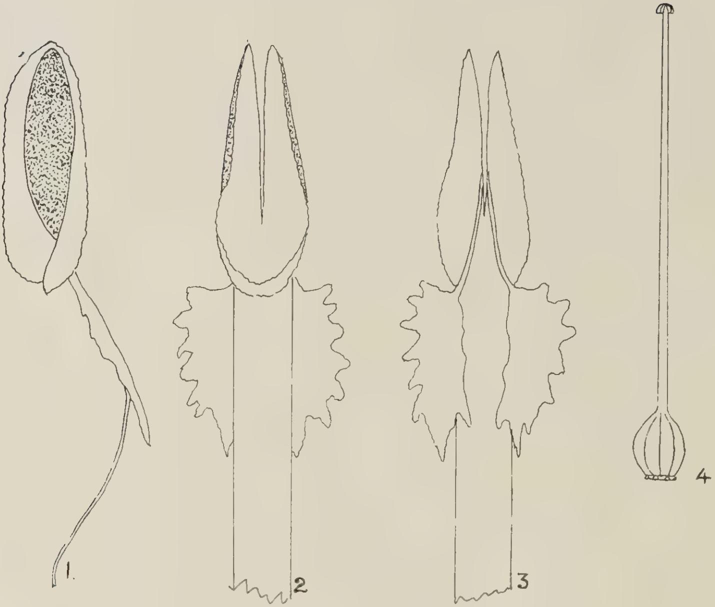

FIG. 5. *Erica pudens*
(1) anther, side view, (2) anther, front, (3) anther, back—all × 25, (4) gynoecium × 20. *Del.* H. A. Baker.

facing downwards. *Leaves* 4-nate, lanceolate, about 4 mm. long, slightly spreading, imbricate at first, later about equalling the internodes, sulcate to sub-openbacked, hirsute with stiff hairs. *Inflorescences* cernuous, capitate in heads of up to 12 flowers. *Peduncles* about 3·5 mm. long and, like the bracts and sepals, hirsute with long, stiff hairs about 2 mm. long; those on the latter gland-tipped and viscid. *Bracts* 3, 2 approximate and sepal-like, the third nearly basal, lanceolate, widely sulcate, white towards the base, green towards the apex, 4 mm. long. *Sepals* narrow oblong, acuminate from a wider base, 3 mm. long, 0·5 mm. wide in the middle. *Corolla* tubular-urceolate, variable with age and position in the head, glabrous, dry, white, 4·5 to 5·0 mm. long: lobes not spreading, obtuse, 1 mm. long. *Anthers* included or just manifest at maturity, dorsifixed, cuneate, obtuse at the base and lobed, deeply bipartite, scabrid, dark brown, appendiculate, 1·3 mm. long; pore about three-quarters the length of the cell: filaments rather broad and more or less kinked at the apex. *Crests* broad, lacerate and more or less pointed at the base, 1·0 mm. long, yellow. *Ovary* glabrous; style exserted, stigma capitate with four horn-shaped processes.

Cape Province: Clanwilliam Division. Olifants Rivier Berge near Grasruggens at the summit of the Cardouw pass on the east side in pebbly clay. *Baker* 2350 *holotype* in the Bolus Herbarium. This plant has also been collected in this area by *Pillans* 8715, *Williams* 21, and *Lewis* 4053; at Warmbaths *G. Edwards* Sept. 1912; in Picketberg Div. *Esterhuizen* 16082; Ceres Div. on the twins, Mostert's Hoek, *Stokoe* 7127.

*E. pudens* was collected by the author as above on a hill side thickly populated by Protaceae and Ericaceae at about 2,000 ft. (600 m.). It grows to about 15 cms. in the centre of the plant and the outer branches gradually bend over and become almost procumbent with the flower heads only just above and facing the ground, hence the name meaning bashful or shy; these may grow to 45 cm. or so in length. It is interesting to speculate on the reason for this habit, which does not appear to afford protection from grazing but, rather, to offer its delights to some terrestial pollinator. Its nearest relative is, probably, *E. maderi* but it differs largely from this by (*a*) being procumbent, (*b*) having widely crested anthers, (*c*) gland-tipped hairs on the bracts and sepals, (*d*) much wider filaments and (*e*) being much more hirsute.

The various collections in the Bolus Herbarium in the "incertae" were examined and agree remarkably closely to the type and are undoubtedly the same species.

The author is indebted to Mr. Ion Williams for introducing him to this species which he collected in the same place.

**Erica purgatoriensis** H. A. Baker sp. nov. (*Ericaceae—Ericoideae*) Ephebus.

Fruticulus erectus ad 60 cm. altus. *Stipes* fere robustus ramis puberulis, plantis aliis paludosis implicatis. *Folia* 4-nata linearia, 2 mm. longa erecta vel divaricata, primo imbricata, denique remota, juniora hispidula glabrescentia. *Flores* numerosi ramulos breves terminantes, nunc solitarii nunc ad 4-nati. *Pedunculi* fere 2 mm. longi, hispiduli, bracteis parvis hispidulis remotis. *Sepala* aliquantulum in forma variabilia, plerumque lato-ovata, apice carinata subscariosa colorata, brevissime hispida et setoso-ciliata, 1·5 mm. longa. *Corolla* late urceolata, in faucibus leviter contracta, minute hispidula sicca, rubicunda, 3 mm. longa, 2·5 mm. lata, lobis leviter extensis obtusis 1 mm. longis. *Antherae* inclusae plus minusve oblongae, curvatae bilobatae et infra cuneatae, scabridae, appendiculatae 0·5 mm. longae, 0·25 mm. latae, poro parvo: aristae extensae setosae fere duo partes longitudinis cellulae. *Filamenta* angusta, propre basi affixa, apice leviter sigmoidea. *Ovarium* 4-cellulatum, 16-ovulatum, cylindricum super disco brevi et superne aliquantulum latius et hirsutum. *Stylo* incluso robusto, stigmate capitellatum.

CAPE PROVINCE: Paarl Division. In a boggy marsh at the S.W. end of Franschhoek Pass on the property "Purgatory"; altitude about 1,000 ft. *Baker* 2374, *holotype* in the Bolus Herbarium.

Upright to 60 cm. or so; *stem* more or less stout, *branches* diffuse, intertwined and supported by the marsh vegetation, puberulous. *Leaves* 4-nate, linear, 2 mm. long, upright to spreading, imbricate on the flowering branches, later distant as the branches elongate, sulcate, the younger minutely hispidulous, glabrescent. *Flowers* numerous, terminal on short branchlets extending along the younger branches, from solitary to 4-nate. *Peduncules* about 2 mm. long, hispidulous, red; bracts remote, small, hispidulous. *Sepals* somewhat variable in shape, mostly broad-ovate, keel-tipped, subscarious, coloured, very shortly

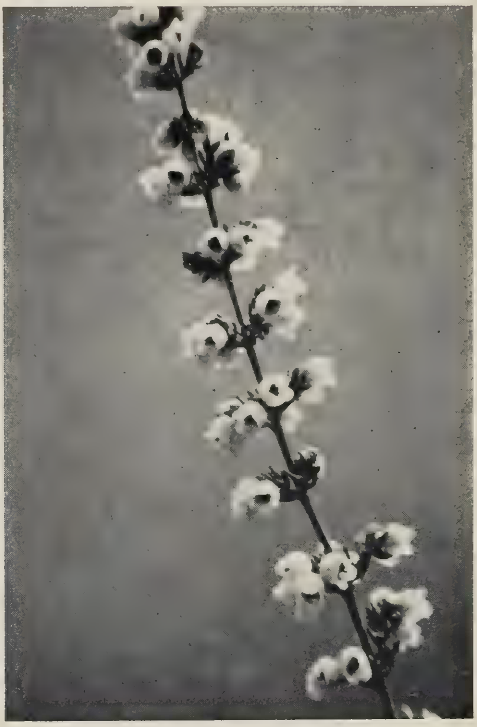

PLATE XXV

*Erica purgatoriensis* H. A. Baker.
Approx. natural size.

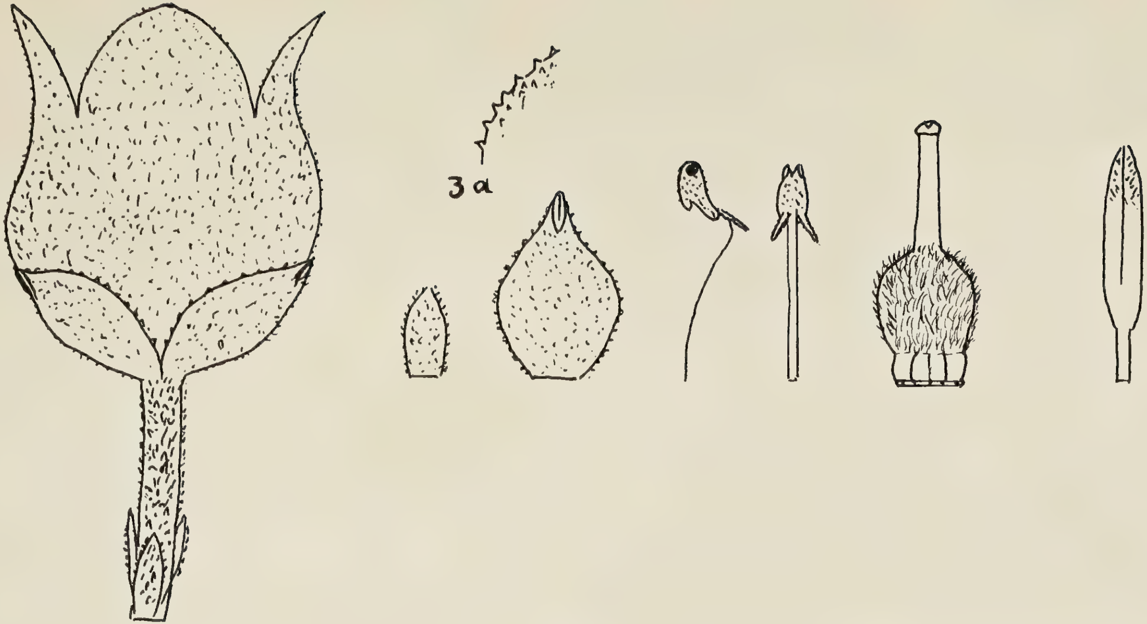

Fig. 6

*Erica purgatoriensis* H. A. Baker. *Baker* 2374. 1. flower; 2. bract; 3. sepal; 3a. edge of sepal enlarged; 4. anther, side view; 5. anther back view; 6. gynoecium; 7. leaf, back. All × 10. *Del.* H. A. Baker.

hispid and setose-ciliate. 1·5 mm. long. *Corolla* broad-urceolate slightly narrowed at the throat, minutely hispidulous, dry, pink, 3·0 mm. long × 2·5 mm. wide; lobes slightly spreading, obtuse, 1·0 mm. long. *Anthers* included, more or less oblong, curves, bilobed and cuneate below, scabrid, appendiculate, 0·5 mm. long × 0·25 mm. wide; pore small. *Awns* spreading, setose, about two-thirds as long as the cell. *Filaments* affixed near the base of the cell, narrow and slightly sigmoid at the top. *Ovary* 4-celled, 16-ovuled, cylindrical on a short disc and somewhat wider and hirsute above. *Style* included, stout; stigma capitellate, small.

At the bottom of Franschhoek Pass the road runs between the extensive marshes of the Du Toit's River on the east side and the lower slopes of the mountain on the west. On the latter side are a series of small marshes on a slight slope and somewhat different in type to the marsh on the other side since the former probably dry out in summer. *E. purgatoriensis* grows in one of the small marshes about 50 yds. square in great profusion amongst dense vegetation and with its stems in the water. It is strange that it has not, apparently, been collected here before. The author hunted about on both sides of the road but found no more of this plant. In a very similar marsh only 80 yds. away grows *E. chrysocodon* in profusion but neither species was found in both marshes. The latter was found sparsely on the other side of the road where the ground falls away quickly to the perennial marshes and also, as one would expect, *E. curviflora*, yellow flowers, brown on the top. The latter was not represented above the road except for one plant with an all-yellow corolla and more advanced in its flowering period.

*E. purgatoriensis* has been collected in Viljoen's Pass by E. Ryder in Oct. 1931 and his collection is in the "incertae" in Bolus Herb. but, as is so often the case, there is no detail of the site on which it was collected. In a marsh at the lower end of the pass the author found a large and strikingly beautiful colony of *E. curviflora*, all-yellow corolla as above, but no *E. purgatoriensis*, only *E. parviflora*.

*E. purgatoriensis* cannot be said to be closely related to any other species in the "Flora Capensis" or since described. It has been placed in *Ephebus* owing to its hairyness but it could, on account of its diffuse habit, be equally well in *Ceramia*. These two sections, as noted by the authors, are to some extent overlapping.

The author made an extensive search of the "incertae" in the Bolus and Compton Herbaria but no other collections were found. There are, however, several collections from the Hottentots Holland mountains of a species closely allied to *E. purgatoriensis*, but differing in several important respects, viz.: (1) anthers longer and of a quite different shape yet similarly awned; (2) stigma manifest at the mouth of the corolla and very large cyathiform; (3) the ovary is not on a glabrous disc; (4) the amount and quality of hairyness varies in these specimens but is, in general, of the same type. These collectings undoubtedly constitute a separate species. The following are the recordings noted: Esterhuizen 9150 Oct. 1943 Langkloofberge, in which the leaves are much hairyer, her 9173 from The Triplets, S.E. slopes 4–5,000 ft. In this the leaves are deeply sulcate to narrowly open-backed, and by Stokoe 6641, 6645 from Landrostkop and Nieuwberge, 8927 from between Sneeukop and Landrostkop, 4026 from Somerset Sneeukop (1934), 6641 from the same area in 1938. It will be noted that all the above come from the higher mountains. They are not noted as being collected in marsh but the conditions on the S.E. slopes high up may be somewhat akin.

**Erica bolusiae** Salter var. **cyathiformis** H. A. Baker var. nov. (*Ericaceae—Ericoideae*) Ephebus.

A forma typica ita differt: *Rami* juniores villosi. *Folia* petiolis inclusis 5—5·5 mm. longa, crinibus densioribus et longioribus, juniora erecta imbricata, vetustiora patula, semper quam internodia longiora. *Inflorescentiae* umbellatae, 2—8-flowered. *Corolla* cyathiformis.

A variety of the type differing as follows: *Branches* villous above; *leaves* 5—5·5 mm. long including the petioles, more or less upright and imbricate when young, later spreading horizontally, always longer than the internodes: *Inflorescences* in small umbels at the ends of the branchlets, 2—8-flowered. *Corolla* cyathiform.

Cape Province: Bellville District about 3 miles from Kraaifontein on the Durbanville road in sandy, flat soil. *Baker* 2280, *holotype* in Bolus Herbarium, March 1964.

A few strong and tall (up to 4 ft.) plants of this variety were found growing together with the typical form in a small clearing of a derelict wood among dead wood lying on the ground. The plants of the type were also very tall. If the two forms had not been found together it would have been reasonable to assume that the var. is but a shade form. A lot of specimens of the type were also collected in the open nearby and these conformed to the description in every way, including height, except that many inflorescences were umbellate as in the var. and as in *E. subdivaricata* which is a very near relative. Although the differences from the type are, perhaps, small the var. is immediately recognized because it looks different mainly on account of the set of the leaves and the extra hairyness.

I am indebted to Mr. Ion Williams for sending me the typical material which led to my going to the site with Mrs. Hill, wife of the owner of the farm, and discovering this variety.